

KY Tech - Bell County ATC Ribbon Cutting brings partnerships to forefront



KY Tech and Bell County administrators, faculty, and staff enjoy cutting the ribbon to celebrate the new area technology center.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.





After years of hard work to secure funding for a new KY Tech-Bell County Area Technology Center (ATC), the day finally arrived to celebrate the \$10.2M building. A joint dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 by the Bell County Board of Education and Office of Career and Technical Education, which oversees the KY Tech school district. The festivities were coordinated by Bell County Grant Writer and Community Education Director Gina Johnson, and the faculty and staff of the KY Tech-Bell County ATC.

The building endeavor was a prescription for success and will long be remembered because of the persistence and resolve by many to provide students with a state of the art building for career and technical education programs.

While numerous people were involved in making this building possible, the day was sweet success for former KY Tech-Bell Co. ATC principal Barney Judd. He was able to see students learning in a safe and physically comfortable environment; a place where teachers, administrators and the community share the responsibility for helping students learn; a place where students are motivated to learn; and a place where students have an equal opportunity to learn. It was a day where people spoke of how state and local partnerships enabled the process to develop and what that means for students at the local level.

Over the past several years, Judd has worked hard to form partnerships to create an environment where people worked together toward a common vision – getting a new facility built. He now serves as a KY Tech area supervisor. But, Judd was previously a teacher and principal during the times when the old school went through nine (9) floods. Along about flood number five, he began documenting what going through a flood really looked like and what it meant to the staff and students – even the toll it took on equipment. People began to take notice.

Bell Co. High School principal Jeff Saylor was instrumental in getting a new facility added to the local district facilities plan because of his role as the district planning committee chairman. There was also the question of funding. Backed by Bell County Board of Education members and Superintendent George Thompson, Gina Johnson was instrumental in writing grants to help fund the building. While state and federal dollars were continually sought, Johnson's \$4M "Urgent Needs" grant was funded in 2007. This funding allowed the district to proceed with its plan for a new ATC. With the help of many in this partnership, the dream has now become a reality.

The ATC was built on Log Mountain and is located on the Bell County High School campus. Students from the Bell County School district, as well those from Middlesboro and Pineville Independent Schools, can actively engage in technical education and skills training programs.

The ATC offers programs in automotive technology, auto body repair, carpentry, health science, information technology, and office technology. The school and its programs are accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools-Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS-CASI). KY Tech-Bell County is part of a statewide system of 54 area technology centers operated by the Office of Career and Technical Education, Department for Workforce Investment, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

David Sowders

KY Tech-Bell County ATC Principal:



"I was fortunate when I became principal 4 years ago because most of the hard work necessary to make this new facility a reality was already done. Even so, something like this does not happen by accident. It takes people with a common vision. People who, when faced with a challenge, refuse to take no for an answer because it is the right thing for students."

"It took strong partnerships to get this building completed. It also took an outpouring of help and support from the Bell County Board of Education, Superintendent George Thompson, Bell County High School Principal Jeff Saylor, former Bell County ATC Principal Barney Judd, Bell County Grant Writer Gina Johnson, legislators, and interested business representatives. Even in these tough economic times, these partners made it possible to fulfill the needs of our students. On behalf of my entire faculty and staff, we thank you."

"We are fortunate to work with a high school principal like Jeff Saylor who is a big supporter of career and technical education. He knew what having this new building adjacent to Bell County High School would mean for students. He also knew it would help our two schools work more as one toward common goals."

"Working with our hands explains a lot of our success in the Area Technology Centers because learning is not a spectator sport. Students know that part of every lesson includes a real-world application and hands-on experience. These students are Kentucky's greatest hope for our economy and our future. We may have moved into this improved facility, but our journey is just beginning. We all look forward to the task at hand - teaching students the skills they need to be successful in life. We are up to the challenge."



Principal David Sowders publically thanked everyone for their efforts in making the KY Tech-Bell County ATC a reality.



Jeff Saylor, Principal
Bell County High School

Saylor:

"Career and technical education is the most important part of education in Kentucky today. As a former teacher, I know that students are more motivated to learn when classroom instruction is related to real-world application. It's no secret that students learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process and career and technical education programs provide that avenue for our students to succeed."

"Having the area technology center located on the Bell County High School campus enables us to not only provide students with the opportunity to explore technical education and skills training programs, it cuts down on travel and allows students to have more time on task. In addition, this will also permit us to improve the pathway for our students to be college and career ready upon graduation from high school – something I take very seriously as principal of the high school."

"We appreciate the efforts of the many people who were involved in the process of acquiring this new facility, but it was Barney Judd who documented the flooding of the old school and the impact it had on learning in a safe environment. Our students now have a new state of the art building where they can learn the skills for a successful career."



George Thompson
Superintendent, Bell County Schools:

“Having the vision to move the Bell County Area Technology Center to the Bell County High School Campus has bridged greater and more effective educational opportunities. Research shows that students who enroll in CTE classes are better prepared for the working world, meet performance requirements, and earn higher salaries.

“I know that providing Bell County students with this opportunity will help prepare them to be successful citizens, workers, and leaders in a global economy. The Bell County Area Technology Center and the Bell County High School located on one campus allows for more engaging educational practices that support the ongoing improvement of teaching and student performance. Today, both high school teachers as well as CTE teachers share the responsibility for helping students learn.”



Photo: KY Tech Area Supervisor Barney Judd is presented with a special commendation by OCTE Executive Director John Marks and Bell County Schools Superintendent George Thompson for his dedicated efforts in support of the new facility.



Photo: John Marks, Executive Director
Office of Career and Technical Education
Department for Workforce Investment
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Marks:

"This new area technology center is the result of sustained efforts by many and investments from a variety of stakeholders, including KY Tech Area Supervisor Barney Judd. I applaud your determination and commitment to construct this outstanding facility.

"I believe an open, honest and hardworking partnership among legislators, state education leaders and local school district officials—where people are willing to roll up their sleeves to do what it takes to meet the goal of educating students—is the answer to providing the best educational opportunities for our youth. I commend you on your vision of recognizing the value and importance of career and technical education for students.

"As a result of these united efforts, students will now enjoy a new and modern area technology center where they can continue to have access to quality technical education and skills training that includes industry certified teachers and programs, education that addresses multiple learning styles, leadership in employability skills that is second to none, relationships and relevance that support rigor, and articulation and dual credit opportunities to pursue a postsecondary education. All of this leads to college and career readiness."



Judd takes a moment to reflect on the journey and process of teamwork to achieve success in gaining a new facility.

Judd:

“October 19, 2010 was an exciting day for past and current staff of the KY Tech-Bell County Area Technology Center. As we near the 50 year anniversary of providing quality career and technical program options for students of Bell County, and Middlesboro and Pineville Independent schools, it is great the ATC is housed in a new facility and positioned to serve students for the next 50 years. Thank you to the multitude of individuals, local officials, and legislators who supported this project.

“I want to thank Bell High School Principal Jeff Saylor for his steadfast support of the ATC and our relocation to the Bell High Campus. He was critical to the process that brought the ATC staff to the new facility. Bell County Superintendent George Thompson was a significant player in the construction of the new facility and has been a long time supporter. Bell County Board members did a fantastic job guiding construction of the new building. In my opinion, it is important to recognize their participation on this building project is just one in a multitude of tasks they take on to promote great learning opportunities. And, Gina Johnson did a wonderful job nurturing the grant-writing project for the new facility.

“We have a fantastic new building and a professional, dedicated Bell Co. ATC faculty and staff. I have high expectations of students completing their technical programs with the highest skill levels and mastery of the newest technologies in their areas of study.

“It was wonderful to have Dr. Bruce Ayers from Southeast Kentucky CTC and Dr. Stephen Fardo from EKV in attendance as they represent the strong partnerships in the greater educational community.

“And last, I want to encourage business and industry in the Bell County and Tri-State areas to look us over. We provide technical education and skills training for high school students, but there are opportunities to meet training needs in partnership with Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College.”

Kenneth Sams
Bell County Board Chairman:

“It is one thing to develop a vision or mission, but quite another to realize them. Today, we are better able to set-up pathways that lead seamlessly from high school to postsecondary education and on to the real work of work. We now have the unique ability to prepare young people for current jobs and careers of the future.

“As board chairman, I am proud to have been part of such a successful endeavor that will continue to promote education and economic growth for many years in Bell County.”



On behalf of the Bell County Board of Education, Chairman Kenneth Sams recognized Gina Johnson for her efforts to secure funding for the new KY Tech-Bell County Area Technology Center.

Gina Johnson
Grant Writer/Community Education Director:

“Recognizing the urgency of this move, the district remained in constant pursuit of state and federal dollars to construct a new facility. When a thriving culture is in place with a clear purpose and vision – well, amazing things happen! In January 2007, the district was awarded just over 4 million dollars from Urgent Needs funds. Later, the district received federal dollars to purchase computers, conference center equipment, and hands-on career kits for younger students. Monies are still being sought to enhance the ongoing program efforts to promote the highest quality of education.”



David Wilson

Now a senior, Wilson is an IT student and SkillsUSA local chapter member. He is also an accomplished speaker and won the silver medal for Extemporaneous Speaking at the SkillsUSA Kentucky State Conference last year. He is going for the gold in 2011.

Wilson was chosen to speak during the ceremony because he had a story to tell. He is one of the few students who can compare and contrast the environment at both the old and new schools. He remembers the time it took to travel to the old school and how the bus ride took away from classroom instruction time. Now, Wilson can walk through a covered bridge from the high school to the area technology center to get to class and have more time for learning skills.

“There is no comparison,” said Wilson. “Thank you. The new KY Tech-Bell County Area Technology Center is a great place to learn.”

Melonie Matthews:

“Our new building has gone from a dream to a reality, which represents hope for our region, our school system and our students. We are blessed beyond measure!”





Signing for posterity, front row (l to r): Mary Jones, HOSA President; Kenneth Sams, Bell County Board Chairman; George Thompson, Bell County Schools Superintendent; John Marks, OCTE Executive Director; Barney Judd, KY Tech Area Supervisor; David Sowders, KY Tech-Bell Co. ATC Principal and Tyler Rowlett, SkillsUSA President. Back row (l to r): Bell County Board members Shelby Stewart and Eulene Brock.

To commemorate the event, IT students in Tim Huddleston's class printed a poster of the KY Tech-Bell County Area Technology Center. All visitors were asked to sign the poster. It will be framed and hung in the main lobby.

Auto Body – Alva Evans, Instructor

Evans:

“When my father was the auto body instructor at this school, we would have to watch the river levels during a flash flood warning to see if we were going to have to move the entire basement of the school upstairs. It was always a time of concern because of safety and the equipment.”

“On behalf of my father and me, I want to thank everyone who had a part in getting our new Bell County ATC built. It takes many people working together for the good of the whole and the team was successful.”

“I especially want to thank Barney Judd because I will not have to worry about moving equipment to another floor because of a flood.”



Evans and Dr. Stephen Fardo (Foundation Professor and Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, ECU) and Josh Brown watch as Cody Davenport demonstrates his skills.

Fardo:

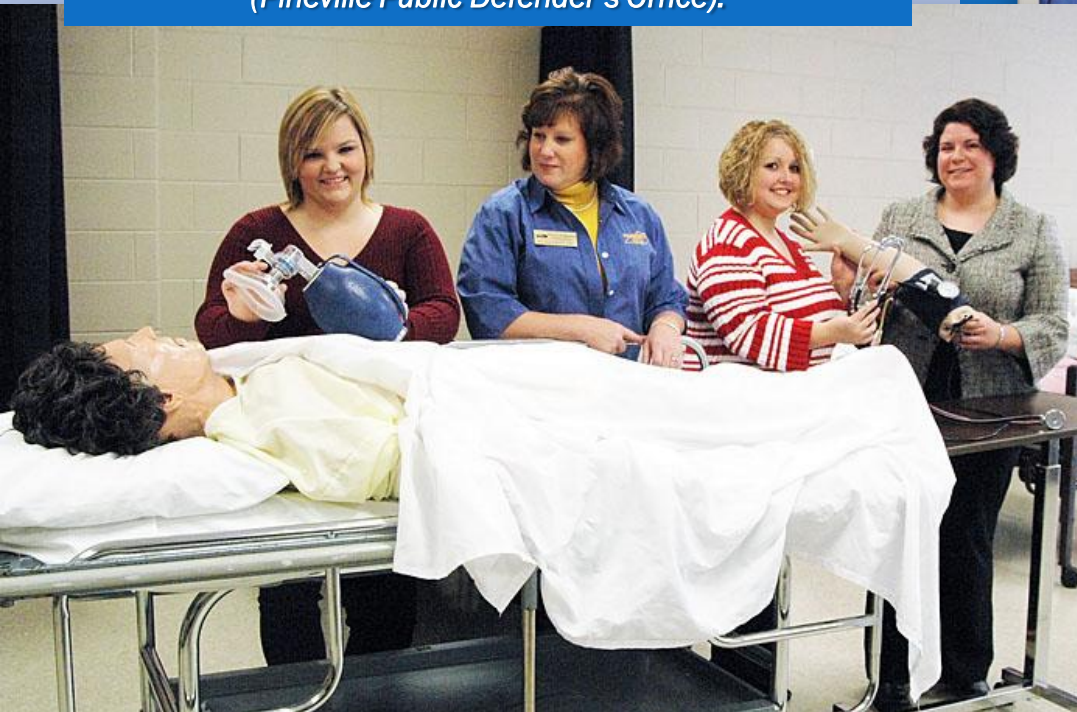
“I'm very impressed with this fine facility. I know that Mr. Judd and many others have worked for several years to accomplish this.”

Tammy Redmond, R.N. - M.S.
Health Science Instructor:

“The new Bell County ATC building is awesome! When I started in 1992, we were located near the Cumberland River and our building would periodically flood. The new building is located on Log Mountain next to our largest high school and is a great place for students to learn.

“I would like to thank Area Supervisor Barney Judd and our principal David Sowders for making this a great day for Bell County teachers and students.”

Photo below (l to r): Tierra West demonstrates an oxygen mask as Redmond watches. Tiffany Brown explains how a high tech blood pressure cuff works to Laura Karem (Pineville Public Defender's Office).



Adkins and student Ashley Miller.

Sandy Adkins
Health Science Instructor:

“Education is all about making a difference in the lives of students. As a health science instructor, it gives me great pleasure to be able to teach in a new facility because our students deserve an opportunity to learn in a safe environment. Over the years, I have seen many of my former students working in our community. It's gratifying because I know that through them, a difference continues to be made for students to have the technical education and skills training they need to become successful.”

(l to r): Lefevers, Kenneth Sams, Bell Co. Board Chair;
and Randall Partin.



Carpentry – Kevin Lefevers, Instructor

Student projects included showcasing special wooden lockers that will be put into the Bell County High School Baseball team's home dugout. And, students also demonstrated how math is used to calculate rafter lengths in a storage building. Proceeds from the building will go back into program supplies.

Lefevers:

"From the beginning, I have been impressed with Barney Judd's ability to tackle a project, such as a new building, and see it through to the end. He inspires a pursuit of excellence that I can only hope translates into my students' lives."



(l to r);
Randall
Partin
and Kevin
Davis talk
with Amy
Sams
about the
math they
used in
building a
storage
shed.



Photo above, (l to r): Bryan Thacker, Randall Partin,
Instructor Kevin Lefevers, Taylor Mills, and Kevin Davis.

Photo below, (l to r): Blake Hoskins, Devon Akers, Chase Davis, Thompson, Tyler Rowlett, Dillon Baker, Emily Hoskins, Katie Brindle, and Lenny Carroll.



Brett Thompson
IT Instructor:

"The new building is a clear investment in the future for our area. We were teaching in numerous locations around the county prior to having this facility. Now, all but one program are under one roof. Because of its size and proximity to our feeder schools, we have gone from serving several dozen students to several hundred students per day at our new location. I feel that it is a privilege to be a part of the 'new beginning' for career and technical education in Bell County.

"I believe in what we do because students in KY Tech courses are engaged in learning both the academic and technical skills they need to be ready for college or a career."



Photo (l to r): Joe Morgan, OCTE branch supervisor; Devon Akers, Dillon Baker, and Brett Thompson, information technology instructor.

Information Technology (IT)

Huddleston:

"I would just like to say how proud I am to be in such a wonderful school with a great staff. We all appreciate the efforts that went into making this facility a reality."

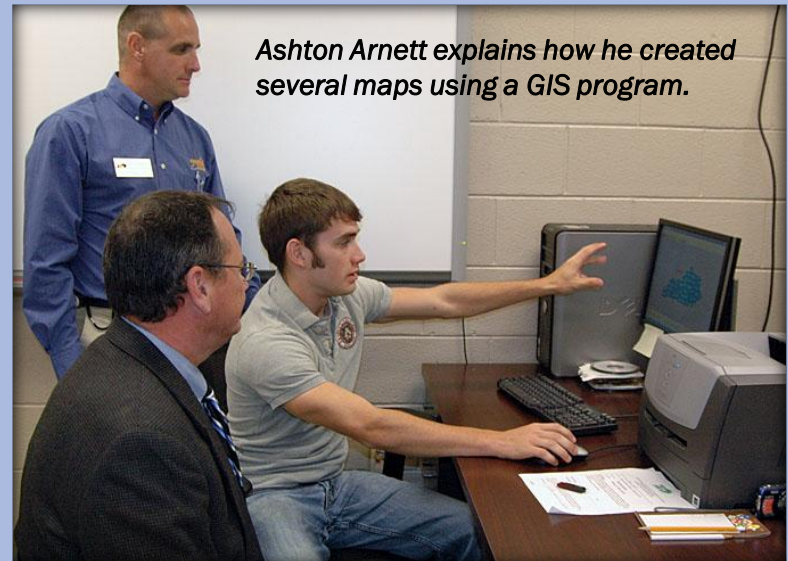
"Everyone here is excited about the opportunity we have to give our students the keys to be able to succeed. Our students are the best anywhere and you can see it in our SkillsUSA competitions every year."



Photo (l to r): Michael Huddleston, Bryan Thacker, Instructor Tim Huddleston, Nekoda Hatmaker, Ashton Arnett, and Tyler Wilson.



Katie Brindle learns parts of a computer from Tyler Wilson as Huddleston watches.



Ashton Arnett explains how he created several maps using a GIS program.

Office Technology

Beverly Smith
Office Technology Instructor:

"I feel fortunate to be a part of this new area technology center, and to be a part of career and technical education in general. I owe my success to the skills I learned in my high school CTE classes."



Photo above (l to r): Office technology students Lauren Slusher and Selyna Ervin, Smith, Becky Judd and Barney Judd.



Photo: Bell Co. ATC maintenance technician Ernie Campbell (center) poses with student supporters.





Photo above - HOSA students and advisors, back row (l to r): Tammy Redmond, health science instructor and advisor; Stephanie Jackson, Mary Jones, Tierra West, Ashley Miller, Chelsea Johnson, Tiffany Brown, and Sandy Adkins, health science instructor and advisor. Front row (l to r): Felicia Tipton and Brittany Horton.



(l to r): Brittany Horton and Stephanie Jackson served as ambassadors at the sign-in table.



Photo (l to r): SkillsUSA member Chelsea Johnson and HOSA VP Emily Hoskins served as official greeters for the ceremony.

Board members and speakers receive KY Tech-Bell Co. ATC signed photos

Photo at right, (l to r): John Marks, OCTE executive director; Jeff Saylor, Bell Co. H.S. principal; Kenneth Sams, Bell Co. board chairman; Shelby Stewart and Eulene Brock, Bell Co. board members; George Thompson, Bell Co. Schools superintendent; Barney Judd, KY Tech area supervisor; and David Sowders, KY Tech-Bell Co. ATC principal.



Above: KY Tech-Bell Co. ATC faculty and staff pose with Barney Judd and John Marks.

At left (l to r): Sowders, Judd, Thompson, and Michael Kindred, OCTE deputy executive director.

KY Tech-Bell Co. ATC faculty and staff celebrate historic event by cutting ribbon with student ambassadors



At the conclusion of the day, a second ribbon cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the festivities. The faculty, staff, and students gathered to capture this special moment in time.



KY Tech Good News Story #332 – November 3, 2010

By: Fran Dundon

Office of Career and Technical Education, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet